

Agency 045

Supreme Court**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	60.9	13,860		13,860
Total Maintenance Level	60.9	14,724		14,724
Difference		864		864
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	6.2%		6.2%
Performance Changes				
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(193)		(193)
Subtotal		(193)		(193)
Total Proposed Budget	60.9	14,531		14,531
Difference		671		671
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	4.8%		4.8%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Adjudication for State Courts	60.9	14,531		14,531
Total Proposed Budget	60.9	14,531		14,531

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Adjudication for State Courts**

The Supreme Court is the final rule-making body for all other state courts. It administers the state court system and supervises certain activities of the Washington State Bar Association, including attorney discipline. The Court hears and rules upon cases argued on the appeal calendar, and reviews all cases in which the death penalty has been imposed.

Agency 046

Law Library**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	13.8	3,584		3,584
Total Maintenance Level	13.8	3,432		3,432
Difference		(152)		(152)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	(4.2)%		(4.2)%
Performance Changes				
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(27)		(27)
Subtotal		(27)		(27)
Total Proposed Budget	13.8	3,405		3,405
Difference		(179)		(179)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	(5.0)%		(5.0)%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Legal Research and Research Services	13.8	3,405		3,405
Total Proposed Budget	13.8	3,405		3,405

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Legal Research and Research Services**

The State Law Library, located in the Temple of Justice in Olympia, maintains a legal research library and provides legal reference services to state government and the public. In addition, three branch libraries are maintained at the Court of Appeals in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. The primary function of the State Law Library is to provide a legal research library for use by the public, state officials, staff and employees of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government, including all commissions, agencies and boards, local governments, and members of the bar. The State Law Library also advises administrative bodies of county law libraries on developing and improving county law library services. State law (RCW 27.20) establishes the State Law Library as part of the judicial branch of government under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Agency 048

Court of Appeals**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	139.6	31,601		31,601
Total Maintenance Level	139.6	33,783		33,783
Difference		2,182		2,182
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	6.9%		6.9%
Performance Changes				
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(427)		(427)
Subtotal		(427)		(427)
Total Proposed Budget	139.6	33,356		33,356
Difference		1,755		1,755
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	5.6%		5.6%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Adjudication and Appeals from Lower Courts	139.6	33,356		33,356
Total Proposed Budget	139.6	33,356		33,356

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Adjudication and Appeals from Lower Courts**

The primary purpose of the Court of Appeals is to serve as the intermediary appellate court for the state of Washington in the adjudication of laws. Statutes give the Court exclusive appellate jurisdiction in almost all appeals from a lower court decision. Court rules require the Court to accept review of a final judgment entered in any action in Superior Court. The Court operates in three divisions in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane.

Agency 050

Commission on Judicial Conduct**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	9.5	2,107		2,107
Total Maintenance Level	9.5	2,207		2,207
Difference		100		100
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	4.7%		4.7%
Performance Changes				
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(25)		(25)
State Data Center Rate Increase		14		14
Subtotal		(11)		(11)
Total Proposed Budget	9.5	2,196		2,196
Difference		89		89
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	4.2%		4.2%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Judicial Conduct Review	9.5	2,196		2,196
Total Proposed Budget	9.5	2,196		2,196

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Judicial Conduct Review**

The Commission on Judicial Conduct was created by constitutional amendment as an independent agency of the judicial branch of government to review complaints concerning the ethical conduct of judges, state officers, and state employees of the judicial branch. The Commission, an 11-member body composed of judges, attorneys and representatives of the public, may impose sanctions, recommend disciplinary action, and issue decisions in the interest of both judicial independence and public accountability. Commission activities commence with a complaint from which follows a mandatory process involving four distinct constitutionally-required phases: preliminary investigation (96.1 percent of the complaints are resolved at this stage), initial proceedings (2.9 percent); public fact-finding hearing (.5 percent); and Supreme Court review (.5 percent). The outcome at the end of each stage dictates whether further proceedings are necessary.

Agency 055

Administrative Office of the Courts**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	359.5	105,206	40,983	146,189
Total Maintenance Level	371.0	115,695	28,829	144,524
Difference	11.5	10,489	(12,154)	(1,665)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	3.2%	10.0%	(29.7)%	(1.1)%
Performance Changes				
Superior Court Calendar and Case Management	2.3		10,031	10,031
Equipment Replacement and Expansion			628	628
Internal Equipment Replacement		44	507	551
Guardianship Services	1.0	1,060		1,060
Risk Assessment		200		200
Transfer Quality Assurance Funds	2.5	1,178		1,178
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(1,453)	(312)	(1,765)
Subtotal	5.8	1,029	10,854	11,883
Total Proposed Budget	376.8	116,724	39,683	156,407
Difference	17.3	11,518	(1,300)	10,218
Percent Change from Current Biennium	4.8%	10.9%	(3.2)%	7.0%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Administration and Support for State Courts	376.8	116,724	39,683	156,407
Total Proposed Budget	376.8	116,724	39,683	156,407

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Superior Court Calendar and Case Management**

Funding and resources are requested to procure and implement an integrated calendaring and case management system for the Washington State Superior Courts. (Judicial Information Systems Account-State)

Equipment Replacement and Expansion

Funds are sought to replace aged computer equipment in trial and appellate courts. (Judicial Information Systems Account-State)

Internal Equipment Replacement

Funding is requested to replace aged computer equipment and to improve the performance of heavily used Judicial Information System services. (General Fund-State, Judicial Information Systems Account-State)

JUDICIAL

Guardianship Services

Restoration of funding is requested for monies eliminated by the legislatively imposed reductions in Fiscal Year 2009. If this funding is not restored, the Administrative Office of the Courts must terminate approximately 50 guardianship appointments, eliminating effective and meaningful access to services for low-income people with diminished capacity.

Risk Assessment

Funding is requested to combine data into a standardized, validated risk assessment tool for the use of judicial officers at pre-trial stages, supporting better informed decision-making about release conditions.

Transfer Quality Assurance Funds

This request would transfer the juvenile court quality assurance program funding and associated responsibilities from the Department of Social and Health Services Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Administration and Support for State Courts

The Office of the Administrator for the Courts, operating under the direction of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is responsible for the execution of administrative policies and rules applicable to Washington State's judicial system. This court system includes the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, superior courts, and courts of limited jurisdiction. The office is responsible for the orderly collection and compilation of court statistics; operation of the judicial information system; training and education of judicial staff; and research, development, and administrative support for judicial staff.

Agency 056

Office of Public Defense**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	14.0	49,976	2,923	52,899
Total Maintenance Level	14.0	53,435		53,435
Difference		3,459	(2,923)	536
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	6.9%	(100.0)%	1.0%
Performance Changes				
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(44)		(44)
Subtotal		(44)		(44)
Total Proposed Budget	14.0	53,391		53,391
Difference		3,415	(2,923)	492
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	6.8%	(100.0)%	0.9%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Public Defense	14.0	53,391		53,391
Total Proposed Budget	14.0	53,391		53,391

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Public Defense**

The Office of Public Defense's duties are to implement the constitutional guarantee of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent appellate services.

Agency 057

Office of Civil Legal Aid**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	1.0	22,159	1,155	23,314
Total Maintenance Level	1.0	24,068		24,068
Difference		1,909	(1,155)	754
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	8.6%	(100.0)%	3.2%
Total Proposed Budget	1.0	24,068		24,068
Difference		1,909	(1,155)	754
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	8.6%	(100.0)%	3.2%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Civil Legal Aid	1.0	24,068		24,068
Total Proposed Budget	1.0	24,068		24,068

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Civil Legal Aid**

The Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) is an independent agency of the judicial branch of government. OCLA is responsible for ensuring indigent persons have access to the civil justice system. OCLA contracts for civil legal services for indigent persons and does not provide direct representation of clients. OCLA reports quarterly to the civil legal aid oversight committee and the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Board on the use of state funds for legal aid. It also reports biennially on the status of access to the civil justice system for low-income people eligible for state-funded legal aid.